

MAMMOTH TREE FROM CALIFORNIA

363 FEET IN HEIGHT.

31 FEET IN DIAMETER AT THE BASE.

15 " 100 FEET FROM THE BASE.

BARK, 18 INCHES IN THICKNESS.

3,000 TO 4,000 YEARS OLD.

THE ONLY NOVELTY IN LONDON !

REATEST CURIOSITY IN THE WORLD !

Known as the WELLINGTONEA GIGANTEA, of LINLEY; and WASHINGTONEA GIGANTEA, of AMERICANS.

THE proprietor of this Monarch of the Forest has the honor of announcing to the public, that he has lately brought a portion of it to London, where it will be on Exhibition, for a short time, at the

ADELAIDE GALLERY, STRAND,

Which has just been refitted, at a great expense, to accommodate it.

This "Sylvan Mastodon" was exhibited during the past year at the Crystal Palace, in New York, with great success, and was visited by hundreds of thousands, all of whom testify to its being what it is claimed to be, THE

LARGEST TREE IN THE WORLD,

and the greatest curiosity of this or any other age. A small portion of this Tree was on private view for a short time, at the Philharmonic Rooms, Newman Street, Oxford Street, and excited so much interest that the proprietor has now brought over the larger portion, and has erected it in the loftiest room in London, where he will be happy to see all who can appreciate a Natural Wonder.

Extract from the "Times," April 9th, 1856.

MAMMOTH TREE FROM CALIFORNIA.—Yesterday, a portion of a magnificent tree of almost fabulous dimensions, just brought to this country from California, by Mr. G. L. Trask, an American, was exhibited at a private view in the Philharmonic Rooms, Newman Street, Oxford Street. This monarch of the forest is 363 feet in height, with a circumference at the base of 93 feet, and a diameter of upwards of 30 feet. It was one of a grove of 80 such, forming a sylvan family on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada, in California, in a sheltered valley about 5,000 feet above the sea. They are described by eye-witnesses as generally standing in groups of two or three together, of a height varying from 250 to 300 feet, and a diameter from 15 to 30 feet, and occupying a space one quarter of a mile square. So much of the tree in question as could stand within the building was exhibited in the Crystal Palace at New York, where it excited considerable interest. The part brought from California consists not of the stem of the tree, but of the bark or rind which was stripped off it in lengths of eight feet, and capable of being joined together again at pleasure, so as to exactly represent the exterior of the tree as it grew. The trunk, thus denuded, still stands in its native forest, and a spiral stair has since been thrown around it so as to make it an observatory for visitors. An inn has also been established for the accommodation of travellers in the wood, which has become a place of resort to pleasure-seekers in a part of the country thinly populated, and distant about twenty miles from the nearest gold-digging station. A part of the tree, about sixteen feet high, is all that is now shown in Newman-street, there being, of course, no building in the metropolis of sufficient altitude to admit it in its entirety; but that part is so disposed as to give the spectator an exact idea of the circumference of the tree and its general exterior, though in other respects it is necessarily seen to great disadvantage. When it is stated that the interior of the portion exhibited, though not the largest part in diameter, is so capacious as to allow of a quadrille being conveniently danced in it, and that the bark is in some places sixteen inches thick, some conception may be formed of its extraordinary dimensions. Among the visitors yesterday, were Mr. Sowerby, the secretary, and Mr. Marnock, the curator, of the Royal Botanic Society. The wood of the tree is as light and buoyant as cork, and has the colour of cedar, but without its odour. Great variety of opinion prevails among the most eminent botanists as to the genus to which it is to be assigned. A careful examination of its concentric rings has led to the belief that it is at least 3,000 years old; and it has been facetiously said, that it was probably a sapling before the first stone of the Pyramids was laid, and was contemporary with Moses and the Prophets. For the present it is not the intention of Mr. Trask to exhibit it in public. His immediate object is to have it examined by eminent botanists and others in this country, with a view to elicit an expression of their opinion in respect of it.

Extract from the "New York Daily Tribune," July 6th, 1856.

THE GREAT TREE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—This enormous sample of the "tall timber" of California attracted upwards of six thousand persons to the Crystal Palace on the 4th of July. An illustration is, perhaps, better than a mere statement of dimensions in feet and inches, as a means of bringing before the mind's eye of the reader the magnitude of the "Washingtonia Gigantea." Imagine, then, a "stick of wood" of vast length, and of sufficient circumference to fill the carriage-way of one of our ordinary streets, horizontally, while the upper surface of the trunk is on a level with the third story windows of the houses on each side! When we state that the largest diameter of base is 31 feet, or 10 1-8 yards, it will be seen at once that this is not an exaggeration. At the distance of 116 feet from the root, the diameter of the tree is over five yards—the width of an ordinary-sized parlor. This phenomenon in the vegetable kingdom is creating as much astonishment among scientific men as among the community at large.

NOW OPEN,

DAILY, from TEN A. M. until EIGHT P. M.

Admission. - - - - - ONE SHILLING.

July 1856.